for this Ministry to give the details of the local manufacturing capabilities within the country. However, import of power equipment is sometimes necessitated in respect of projects receiving multilateral and bilateral aid.

बैंकों को बंद किया जाना और उनका विलय किया जाना

1042. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या वर्ष 1992-93, 1993-94 और 1994-95 के दौरान विभिन्न राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों की बहुत सी शाखाओं को बंद कर दिया गया अथवा अन्य शाखाओं के साथ मिला दिया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त अवधि के दौरान बंद की गई अथवा अन्य शाखाओं के साथ मिला दी गई शाखाओं की बैंक-वार तथा वर्ष-वार संख्या क्या है;

(ग) क्या इन शाखाओं के बंद होने के कारण बड़ी संख्या में कर्मचारी फालतू (अतिरिक्त) हो गए हैं;

(घ) यदि हां, तो उक्त अवधि के दौरान फालतू (अतिरिक्त) होने वाले कर्मचारियों की वर्ष-वार तथा बैंक-वार संख्या क्या है; और

(ङ) क्या इन कर्मचारियों को अन्यत्र रोजगार उपलब्ध कराने के लिए कोई योजना तैयार की गई है, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री मनमोन सिंह): सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और यथा उपलब्ध सूचना सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Taking over of MNCs through IFCI

1043. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to take some large multi-national companies through Industrial Finance Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) which companies have been targetted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Authorised Dealers to provide Foreign Exchange

1044. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank has permitted the authorised dealers to provide foreign exchange facilities to their customers beyond the permitted limits for business travel, medical treatment, medical checkup and training;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes and foreign exchange facilites permitted by RBI;

(c) upto what amount the authorised dealers are now not required to obtain the prior approval of the Reserve Bank; and

(d) the details of delegated powers to authorised dealers to release foreign exchange for various purposes at the scales prescribed by the RBI and from which date these have been made effective?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) RBI has permitted Authorised Dealers to allow foreign exchange facilities for;

(i) Business travel abroad including entertainment allowance;

(ii) Participation in overseas Conferences/Seminars of Scientific/ technical/educational nature;

(iii) Specialised training/study tours/Apprenticeship training;

(iv) Medical treatment/check-up/ consultation abroad; and

(v) Studies abroad;

In excess of the prescribed scales and/or the duration of the visit abroad without prior approval of RBI provided they are satisfied about the bonafides of the application and need for release of exchange in excess of the prescribed scales.

(d) As already stated at (b) and (c) above, authorised dealers can release foreign exchange for various purposes without any ceiling. This has come into effect from 5th July, 1995.

Review of Policies on Power Sector

1045. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Working Group has urged the Central Government to review its policies concerning power sector;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether the role of private sector in power sector has been a controversial issue since the past few months; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) National Working Group on Power Sector in their letter submitted to Hon'ble Members of Parliament regarding the "New Power Policy of the Government of India" have raised certain issues on the private power policy. These have been clarified in a publication brought out by the Ministry of Power—"The Legal and Policy Framework of Pirvate Power Development—Facts and Clarifications", which was widely circulated including among the Hon'ble Members of Parliament.

(c) Even though the private power policy has been one of the much debated topics in the recent months, it has not been a controversial issue.

(d) Does not arise.

Loans Disbursed under IRDP and DRI scheme

1046. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons (families) granted loans under IRDP and DRI Scheme against target in 1993-94, 1994-95; and

(b) what is the amount disbursed under IRDP and DRI Scheme during 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The number of families assisted and the amount disbursed under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) during the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 are furnished below: